Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. A method of synchronizing identity information between a primary computer system and a disparate secondary computer system, wherein the primary computer system and the secondary computer system store identity information in different formats and wherein the method comprises:

   connecting the primary computer system and the secondary computer system to provide communication capability between the primary computer system and the secondary computer system;

   determining new identity information exists on the primary computer system and that a synchronization operation should be performed;

   converting the new identity information into a different format, the different format associated with the secondary computer system; and

   propagating the converted information to the secondary computer system.

2. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the process is performed by the operating system.

3. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the secondary computer system has a representative database of identity information following receipt of the converted information, wherein the representative database is representative of a primary database of identity information stored on the primary computer system.

4. A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the representative database on the secondary computer system has less identity information than the primary database.

5. A method as defined in claim 4 wherein the secondary computer system is a telephone system and the identity information comprises contact information.

6. A method as defined in claim 4 wherein the secondary computer system is a handheld personal digital assistant computer system and the identity information comprises contact information.

7.   A method as defined in claim 4 wherein the secondary computer system is a email account system and the identity information comprises contact information.

8.   A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the new identity information is entered into the primary computer system by a user.

9.   A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the new identity information is entered into the primary computer system by another secondary computer system.

10.   A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the conversion is performed by a dedicated process designed for the secondary system.

11.   A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the conversion is performed by a generalized process designed to convert identity information into multiple different formats.

12.   A method as defined in claim 11 further comprising:

receiving a mapping table of information from the secondary computer system, wherein the mapping table maps identity claim elements in a primary format, wherein the primary format is the format of the primary database, to identity claim elements in a secondary format, wherein the secondary format is the format of the secondary database; and

using the mapping table to convert identity information into the secondary format.

13.   A computer program product readable by a computer system and tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer system to perform the method of claim 1.

14.   A computer program product readable by a computer system and tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer system to perform the method of claim 12.

15.   A method of synchronizing identity information between a secondary computer system and a disparate primary computer system, wherein the primary computer system and the secondary computer system store identity information in different formats and wherein the method comprises:

connecting the primary computer system and the secondary computer system to provide communication capability between the primary computer system and the secondary computer system;

determining new identity information exists on the secondary computer system and that a synchronization operation should be performed;

propagating the new identity information to the primary computer system; and

converting the new identity information into a different format, the different format associated with the primary computer system.

16. A method as defined in claim 15 wherein the process is performed by the operating system.

17. A method as defined in claim 15 wherein the primary computer system has a representative database of identity information following receipt of the new identity information, wherein the representative database is representative of a secondary database of identity information stored on the primary computer system.

18. A method as defined in claim 15 wherein the conversion is performed by a generalized process designed to convert identity information into multiple different formats.

19. A method as defined in claim 18 further comprising:

receiving a mapping table of information from the secondary computer system, wherein the mapping table maps identity claim elements in a primary format, wherein the primary format is the format of the primary database, to identity claim elements in a secondary format, wherein the secondary format is the format of the secondary database; and

using the mapping table to convert identity information from the secondary format into the primary format.

20. A computer program product readable by a computer system and tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer system to perform the method of claim 15.

21.   A computer program product readable by a computer system and tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer system to perform the method of claim 19.

22.   A method of synchronizing rule information between a primary computer system and a disparate secondary computer system, wherein the primary computer system and the secondary computer system store identity information in different formats, wherein the primary computer system and the secondary computer systems have representative databases of identity information and wherein the method comprises:

connecting the primary computer system and the secondary computer system to provide communication capability between the primary computer system and the secondary computer system;

determining new rule information exists and that a synchronization operation should be performed; and

propagating the new identity information from one computer system to the other.

23.   A method as defined in claim 22 further comprising, converting the new rule information into a different format, the different format associated with the secondary computer system.

24.   A method as defined in claim 23 wherein the conversion occurs on the primary computer system prior to propagating the information to the secondary computer system.

25.   A method as defined in claim 24 wherein the primary computer system maintains a conversion table used to convert rule information into the proper format for the secondary computer system.

26.   A method as defined in claim 24 further comprising:

translating the rule information into a third format, the third format associated with a third computer system, wherein the third computer system has a representative identity information database representative of the primary database; and

propagating the new rule information to the third computer system.

27.   A computer program product readable by a computer system and tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer system to perform the method of claim 22.

28.   A computer program product readable by a computer system and tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer system to perform the method of claim 25.

29. 26.   A network system for synchronizing identity information between a primary computer system and a disparate secondary computer system, wherein the primary computer system and the secondary computer system store identity information in different formats and wherein the system comprises:

a synchronization interface that connects the primary computer system and the secondary computer system to provide communication capability between the primary computer system and the secondary computer system;

a control module that determines new identity information exists on the primary computer system and that a synchronization operation should be performed;

a conversion module for converting the new identity information into a different format, the different format associated with the secondary computer system; and

a synchronization module for propagating the converted information to the secondary computer system.

30. 27.   A system as defined in claim 26 wherein the secondary computer system is a telephone computer system.

31. 28.   A system as defined in claim 26 wherein the secondary computer system is a handheld personal digital assistant computer system.

32. 29.   A system as defined in claim 26 wherein the secondary computer system is an email server computer system.

33. 30.   A system as defined in claim 26 wherein the conversion module accesses a predetermined table of mapping information associated with the secondary computer system to convert the identity information into the proper format.

34.~~31~~. A system as defined in claim 30 further comprising second synchronization interface for communicating with another secondary computer system and wherein the conversion module converts identity information into another secondary format for the another secondary computer system.

35.~~32~~. A system as defined in claim 26 wherein the primary computer system has a user interface module and the new identity information is entered on the primary computer system through the user interface module.

36.~~33~~. A system as defined in claim 26 wherein the new identity information originates from a third computer system.

37.~~34~~. A system as defined in claim 32 wherein the new identity information received from the third computer system is converted into a format for the primary computer system and stored in a primary database, the new identity information is then converted into the format for the secondary computer system and transferred to the secondary computer system.

38.~~35~~. A network system for synchronizing rule information between a primary computer system and a disparate secondary computer system, wherein the primary computer system and the secondary computer system store identity information in different formats and wherein each system has a representative database of identity information of the other, the system comprises:

a synchronization interface that connects the primary computer system and the secondary computer system to provide communication capability between the primary computer system and the secondary computer system;

a control module that determines new rule information exists on the primary computer system and that a synchronization operation should be performed; and

a synchronization module for propagating the converted information to the secondary computer system.

39.~~36~~. A system as defined in claim 35 further comprising a conversion module for converting the new rule information into a different format, the different format associated with the secondary computer system.

7